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A FIREBUG IN THE EAST.

Eighteen months ago Ogden had a firebug who delighted in seeing the flames attack isolated buildings which were large and would burn with spectacular tongues of fire. Big sheds, barns and old warehouses were sent up in smoke and for a time there was considerable alarm. But, as suddenly as the fellow with the torch appeared, the menace passed and Ogden had almost forgotten its experience when the dispatches told of the firebug in Fayette City, Pa., where \$500,000 in property has been destroyed.

State troops have been called and Fayette is having a spell of nerves. The eastern firebug is more thorough than the Ogden offender, as he blocks the roadway to the scene of his deviltry with barrels and other obstructions, so that when the fire fighters answer the alarm they are delayed by a barricade.

Only a man or boy of unbalanced mind can be responsible for such wanton destruction of property.

In Ogden there was no apparent motive for the fire other than the satisfying of a mania.

"SPUD" MURPHY FOUND GUILTY.

When the jury in the "Spud" Murphy case in San Francisco brought in a verdict of guilty against the gangster, the whole country rejoiced.

The outrages perpetrated against young girls had aroused intense interest everywhere and had San Francisco failed to quickly bring to trial and as swiftly find the toughs guilty, there would have been a stain upon the home people of that city.

No series of crimes in years have attracted as much attention as the offense committed by the degenerates who, operating in gangs, enveloped young girls into automobiles and, driving them to quickly bring to trial and as swiftly find the toughs guilty, there would have been a stain upon the home people of that city.

Murphy can be held in state prison, under the indeterminate sentence law, for a period of from one to fifty years. Had he been convicted in Nevada, he could have been shot.

No one would regret the permanent removal of a man of the debased and brutal promptings of Murphy, who was one of 18 men to attack Jesse Montgomery, 17 years old.

The horrible outrages, which stirred the entire coast, are a reminder of the Durrant case. The body of two girls were found in the belfry of a church in San Francisco, and there was ample evidence that the girls had gone to their deaths fighting to protect their honor. The young man who was held responsible for the crime was executed, and for years after that San Francisco was free from crimes of that kind.

BABIES ARE SOLD AND TRAFFIC IS BAD.

One of the judges of juvenile court of this state makes the surprising announcement that hundreds of babies are being literally sold in Salt Lake. In regard to this traffic, the judge says:

"We feel almost justified in saying that in this community the problem of neglect is solved, with the exception of the problem of the illegitimate child, and to this problem the court is now turning its attention. We have gone far enough into it to feel safe in saying that the traffic in babies is the sorest spot, and a very sore spot, in our otherwise excellent child-caring system."

"Hundreds of babies are being literally sold annually in Salt Lake; often with little or no regard to the mental and physical condition of the baby, or to the moral fitness of the home into which the child goes."

"The usual procedure involves the care of the mother at a maternity home, hospital, or by a private physician; the transfer of the illegitimate child by the maternity home, hospital or doctor, to someone who desires a child, and the payment by the parties who receive the child to the maternity home, hospital or doctor, of the expenses incident to the mother's confinement."

"The evil is aggravated by reason of the fact that our district courts, which have jurisdiction of adoption matters, have no facilities for investigation, and consequently cases of adoption are handled informally and decrees entered as a matter of course, upon presentation of evidence sufficient to satisfy the bare statutory requirements."

"The juvenile court records contain many cases where the lives of children have been wrecked by being placed in unfit homes, and on the other hand, many cases in which mentally and

physically diseased children have been placed, through these methods in good homes, causing, later, heartaches and lives of sorrow to the adopting parents. The need for change in our legal system in this matter is illustrated by the following case."

This problem of the illegitimate child is a most difficult one to solve. It is necessary to surround the maternity homes with a screen of confidence which will invite prospective mothers to seek the seclusion of the homes rather than violate nature, and yet children born in such places should be as carefully protected from mistreatment as are babies brought into the world in a legitimate way.

THEATRES

"The Cradle of Courage" Last Time Tonight at the Alhambra

"Can you fancy William S. Hart, western hero and frontier bad man, in a score of pictures, as a policeman? Well, he is just that in his latest production for Paramount, 'The Cradle of Courage,' which scored a decided hit on its presentation before an enthusiastic audience at the Alhambra theatre last night.

The story is that 'It takes a thief to catch a thief' is exemplified in this photograph in a sense, but this is in no wise the theme of the story. 'Square Kelly,' portrayed by Mr. Hart, has been a safe-cracker who is reformed in the crucible of war at the fighting front, and who becomes a policeman in furtherance of his plan to live straight.

Human Nature Abounds in Picture Showing at the Ogden Theatre

In "Human Nature" the Thomas H. Ince studio, released through Associated Producers, Inc., human nature and country life abound. Real people do real things. There is nothing of the cocktail and limousine drama here.

The feature will be shown at the Ogden theatre today. Among the excellent characterizations are those of Lloyd Hughes as the young country lawyer, Charles Mallet and Lydia Knott as his parents, and petite Gladys George as the girl in the case. The dog, "Freddy," adds another decided touch to the picture, which abounds in fine human interest situations and real pathos.

Those who have seen it pronounce it a worthy companion piece to such American epics as "Way Down East," and "The Old Homestead."

Fairbanks Has Former Asso- ciates Playing in His New Picture

It is a curious coincidence that Douglas Fairbanks should have supporting him in "The Mark of Zorro" his latest United Artists production, which will be the feature at the Alhambra theatre beginning tomorrow. Claire McRowell, Noah Beery and Charles Hill Mallets with Fred Niblo as his director. Many years before their advent into the silent drama, they had appeared at different times with one another upon the legitimate stage.

Incidentally it was also the film debut of Noah Beery, Jr., age 7. But unlike his famous sire, Noah, Jr. appears to be destined for heroic roles in the future. In one scene of "The Mark of Zorro" young Beery drops from an outer wall of a building and with a miniature sword, gallantly rescues a little miss of about the same age from the cruel clutches of another youngster who appears to take great delight in inflicting punishment upon her. 'Twas a proud parent who stood near the camera viewing the performance with great gusto.

MINER'S LAMP PLAYS HAVOC

RIKERSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 21.—Ed Epperson hit on the plan of wearing a miner's lamp on his cap when he went out to do his milking before daylight. Fine idea, but

A cow kicked him. He landed in a hay pile which started to blaze. Fire department couldn't get water out of fire plugs. Used chemical apparatus which blew him apart.

Hay pile's gone. So's the miner's lamp. Epperson and cow were saved.

LEGAL BATTLE TO BREAK WILL READY TO OPEN

LEBANON, Pa., Dec. 21.—A legal battle for the possession of several million dollars will be waged in the orphan's court of Lebanon county on January 14, when Judge Henry will hear the contest to break the will of the late Rosaline Parent Coleman, of Paris, France.

The contestant is her son, Dr. Guido Henckle, of Freiburg, Germany, and efforts are being made to obtain passports for him to come here for the trial.

Dr. Henckle, who was a surgeon in the German army during the world war, was a son of Mrs. Coleman by her marriage with the late Prince Doernersmark, of Germany. In her will, made in 1907, she made him her universal legatee, but disinherited him in a codicil in 1915 when Germany declared war on France, declaring him "dead to her on account of the war."

The fight here will involve the Rosaline Parent Coleman interest in the Cornwall iron mines at Cornwall, Pa., now controlled by the Bethlehem Steel company.

NATION'S FOREST AREA LESSENS

Greeley Urges Federal Law to Stop Devastation of Timber Lands

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Forests east of the Rocky mountains are being devastated so rapidly by cutting and burning that the nation soon will be dependent for the bulk of its construction lumber upon the forests of the Pacific coast, William B. Greeley, United States forester, declares in his annual report, made public today. The situation, Mr. Greeley says, is one that affects the public welfare of the entire country and he urges a federal law to stop the devastation of the remaining forests and to put the idle forest lands to work.

"Two-thirds of the original forests of the United States have been cut, cut-over, or burnt, and three-fifths of their merchantable timber is gone," said Mr. Greeley. "The country is taking about 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of wood annually from its forests and is growing about 5,000,000,000 cubic feet. We are cutting timber of every class, even trees too small for the sawmill, much faster than they are being replaced in our forests. There are still large quantities of timber in the United States, but they are not in the right place. Sixty-one per cent of what is left lies west of the great plains, far from the bulk of our population, agriculture and manufactures. The exhaustion of one forested section after another in the eastern states has been reflected in rising transportation costs. The distance be-

tween the average sawmill and the average home builder is steadily increasing, and we shall soon be dependent for the bulk of our construction lumber upon the forests of the Pacific coast. These conditions have had a vital bearing upon the high cost of lumber, which, during the year, reached a prohibitive figure for many uses and checked the building of homes which is so urgently needed.

TO STOP DEVASTATION.

We have used up our forests without growing new ones. At the bottom of the whole problem is idle forest land. The United States contains 328,000,000 acres of cut-over and denuded forests containing no saw timber; 21,000,000 acres of this have been completely devastated by forest fires and methods of cutting which destroy or prevent new timber growth. The area of idle or largely idle land is being increased from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres annually as the cutting and burning of forests continue.

To stop the devastation and put idle lands to work the first step must be the enactment of a federal law whose two chief provisions are (1) a comprehensive plan of federal cooperation with the states in fire prevention and the development of forestry practice, and (2) extension of the national forests through purchases, through the inclusion of other timber lands now in federal ownership, and through exchange.

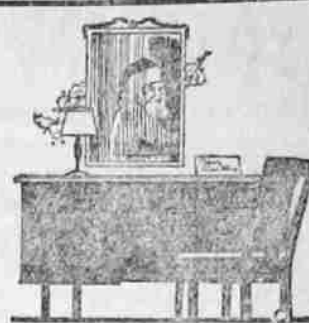
IS NATIONAL PROBLEM.

Speaking of a national forestry policy, Mr. Greeley said the program laid down by Colonel Graves had been further developed.

"This program," he stated, "is based on the conviction that the problem of halting forest devastation is fundamentally a national, not a local, problem, and must be faced and handled as such. At the same time it is felt that the speediest, surest, and most equitable action can be secured through dependence on the police powers of the states for the enforcement of such reasonable requirements as should be made of private owners, and on the state governments for providing organized protection of pri-



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TWO GREAT CANALS.

The Suez canal, which was opened in 1869, is ninety miles long, while the Panama canal is but 50.5 miles in length. It cost about \$100,000,000 to construct the Suez canal, while the cost of the Panama canal was almost four times that amount.

It's never too late to buy "Sweet's" for Christmas

Is there a name not yet checked off your Christmas gift list—a friend you have neglected to remember?

Well, there's still time to send a box of SWEET'S CHOCOLATES—and a more acceptable gift you could never secure, no matter how much time you gave to its purchase.

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